

Docket No. AT9-98-709

25 **CLAIMS:**

What is claimed is:

- sub-b17
- 30 1. A method for configuring a server in a distributed data processing system, the method comprising the computer-implemented steps of:
 registering a primary server name for the server;
 registering a secondary server name for the server; and
 responding to requests directed to either the primary server name or the
 secondary server name.
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2. The method of claim 1 further comprising registering the primary server name or the secondary server name while configuring or initializing the server.
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3. The method of claim 1 further comprising reading the primary server name or the secondary server name from a configuration file or initialization file.
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4. The method of claim 1 wherein the distributed data processing system comprises a network, and wherein the requests are received from the network.
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5. The method of claim 1 further comprising registering the primary server name or the secondary server name with a call to a NetBIOS application programming interface.
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6. The method of claim 1 wherein the server comprises a plurality of secondary server names.
- sub-b2)
- 61 7. A method for reconfiguring servers in a distributed data processing system, the method comprising the computer-implemented steps of:
 registering a first primary server name for a first server;
 registering a second primary server name for a second server;
 determining that the first server requires reconfiguration;
 registering for the first server a secondary server name that is identical to the
 second primary server name; and

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responding by the first server to requests directed to either the first primary server name or the secondary server name.

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8. The method of claim 7 wherein the first server is reconfigured in response to a determination that the second server requires fail-over support by the first server.

9. A method for reconfiguring servers in a distributed data processing system, the method comprising the computer-implemented steps of:
 registering a first primary server name for a first server;
 registering a secondary server name for the first server;
 responding to requests directed to either the first primary server name or the secondary server name;
 determining that the first server requires reconfiguration;
 deregistering the secondary server name for the first server; and
 registering for a second server a second primary server name that is identical to the secondary server name.

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10. The method of claim 9 wherein the secondary server name is deregistered prior to connecting the second server to a network in the distributed data processing system.

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11. The method of claim 9 wherein the second primary server name is registered prior to connecting the second server to a network in the distributed data processing system.

12. A data processing system comprising:
 registering means for registering a primary server name for a server and for registering a secondary server name for the server; and
 responding means for responding to requests directed to either the primary server name or the secondary server name.

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13. The data processing system of claim 12 further comprising registering the primary server name or the secondary server name while configuring or initializing the server.

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14. The data processing system of claim 12 further comprising a configuration file or initialization file for storing the primary server name or the secondary server name.

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15. The data processing system of claim 12 wherein the data processing system is connected to a network, and wherein the requests are received from the network.

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16. The data processing system of claim 12 further comprising registering the primary server name or the secondary server name with a call to a NetBIOS application programming interface.

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17. The data processing system of claim 12 wherein the server comprises a plurality of secondary server names.

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18. A computer program product on a computer readable medium for use in a data processing system, the computer program product comprising:
instructions for registering a primary server name for a server and a secondary server name for the server; and
instructions for responding to requests directed to either the primary server name or the secondary server name.

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19. The computer program product of claim 18 further comprising registering the primary server name or the secondary server name while configuring or initializing the server.

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20. The computer program product of claim 18 further comprising reading the primary server name or the secondary server name from a configuration file or initialization file.

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21. The computer program product of claim 18 wherein the data processing system is connected to a network, and wherein the requests are received from the network.

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22. The computer program product of claim 18 further comprising registering the primary server name or the secondary server name with a call to a NetBIOS application programming interface.

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23. The computer program product of claim 18 wherein the server comprises a plurality of secondary server names.

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